

## **Idaho Public Utilities Commission**

Case No. IPC-E-13-14, Notice of Public Workshops

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### **Workshops will explore future of demand response programs**

A series of four workshops begin July 10 to determine the future of three Idaho Power Company programs that provide incentives to customers to reduce their electric demand on the utility's generation system during peak-use periods.

Last month, the Idaho Public Utilities Commission issued an order allowing Idaho Power to temporarily suspend two of its demand response programs and modify another. Due primarily to the economic downturn, Idaho Power claims its generating plants can meet peak demand in the summer months until at least through 2016 at lower cost than by continuing the programs.

The programs temporarily suspended are *A/C Cool Credit*, which provides residential customers who signed up a \$7 credit for each of three summer months to allow Idaho Power to remotely cycle air conditioners on and off during peak-use periods and *"Irrigation Peak Rewards,"* which pays irrigators to turn off irrigation pumps through the use of an electric switch connected to customers' electrical panels. A third program – modified, but not suspended – is *FlexPeak*, directed to industrial and large commercial customers who volunteer to reduce their electric service loads for short periods during the summer. The programs are just part of about 20 demand response programs offered by Idaho Power.

Idaho Power said it has enough generation to meet peak demand and that suspending the programs would save customers the approximate \$5.5 million it spent during 2012 on *A/C Cool Credit* and \$12.3 million on *Irrigation Peak Rewards*. *A/C Cool Credit* and *Irrigation Peak Rewards* were created in 2003 and 2004, respectively. During 2012, the two programs and *FlexPeak* reduced demand on Idaho Power's system by 367 megawatts. One megawatt is enough power to energize about 650 average-sized homes.

In response to Idaho Power's petition to suspend the programs, the commission adopted a negotiated settlement that provides a "continuity payment" of \$1 per month to residential customers during three summer months who have been participating in *A/C Cool Credit*, even though air conditioner cycling will not occur. Participating irrigators will also receive continuity payments, but the amounts vary depending on which Peak Reward option irrigators chose. It is hoped the continuity payments will keep customers from dropping out of the programs while they are reviewed.

The workshops are part of the review on how the programs should be conducted after this year. Open to the public, the workshops are scheduled for July 10, July 23, Aug. 7 and Aug. 19. All begin at 9 a.m. in the **public meeting room of Idaho Power headquarters, 1221 W. Idaho St.**

Those interested but who cannot attend can participate in the workshops via telephone by calling toll-free 1-877-820-7831 and entering the participant code of 2456163#.

Documents regarding this case as well as the case that allowed temporary suspension of the programs are available on the commission's Web site at [www.puc.idaho.gov](http://www.puc.idaho.gov). Click on "Electric," and then on "Open Cases" and scroll down to Case No. IPC-E-12-29 and Case No. IPC-E-13-14.